Project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territories that are complete in all respects are approved on the basis of inter-se priority and funds released subject to availability under respective head.

(b) During the year 2006-07, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, sanctioned a Project of Rs. 780.00 lakh for Integrated Development of Pilgrim Circuit in Himachal Pradesh.

(c) No, Sir. The State Government has not submitted any project for beautification of the Durga Mata Thar Jungla at Chadhgaon Tehsil, district Shimla.

(d) Does not arise.

Promotion of tourism in Maharashtra

1224. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether faced with the challenges from other States like Kerala, Goa, Rajasthan, in promoting tourism, the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation has launched Mahabhraman, a public-private participation scheme to promote tourism in hinterlands of the State;

(b) if so, what is the total amount involved in this project;

(c) whether the Central Government has also agreed to provide financial assistance to implement the project; and

(d) by when this project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation Limited has launched Mahabhraman scheme to promote tourism through public-private partnership. However, no financial assistance has been sought from the Ministry of Tourism.

Development of places of worship

†1225. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) number of places of worship developed as tourists destination in last two years in States, as on date;

(b) the amount allocated during last two years, State-wise; and

(c) the places of worship to be developed as tourist destination during current year in the States, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Development of tourist places including places of worship is primarily under taken by the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. However, during the last two years (2005-06, 2006-07) the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned 531 projects for development and promotion of tourism in the country including pilgrim sites. The State-wise details are enclosed as Statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.